

the deficiencies in supervision of his case, our view—based on our knowledge from regular program reviews in the field and other ongoing communication with field offices from around the country—is that David Renz was not supervised in a manner typical of federal probation and pretrial services practices. The vast majority of the 200,000 defendants and offenders supervised every year remain arrest-free and comply with the conditions imposed by their supervising court. In instances where they are returned to prison, it is most often for technical violations (such as refusing to participate in treatment or associating with a known felon) rather than for new crimes. Such success does not come easily when dealing with high-risk defendants and offenders, and reflects the hard work of many dedicated employees of the Judiciary.

Probation officers carry out their duties pursuant to statutes enacted by Congress and policies approved by the Judicial Conference. The AO is responsible for, among other things, investigating the work of probation and pretrial services offices and advising courts about Judicial Conference policies and best practices. As you know, the AO initiated an investigation into the handling of the Renz case shortly after learning of his rearrest. On April 9, 2013, a report based on that investigation—which included a number of findings that you cited in your letters—was submitted to the chief judge of the Northern District of New York, who directly supervises the probation office in that district. The chief judge has the authority to take personnel action and make other changes. We also re-submitted to the chief judge an earlier “program review” report, describing the work of the probation office in 2010. In the interest of transparency and public awareness, the court posted the report on their website.

We reported to the chief judge that the probation office failed to make desired changes following the 2010 program review but, in consultation with the chief judge and the AO, the probation office has made substantial changes in response to our findings and recommendations in the 2013 report. Those changes have included dismissing and demoting certain probation office personnel, reorganizing the office's location monitoring unit, retraining staff, and inviting in a technical assistance team from the AO for consultation and training. In addition, the probation office indicated that it will cooperate fully with cyclical reinvestigations to be conducted (as funding permits) by the AO.

Nonetheless, the AO is in the process of re-examining policy for and reviewing the operations of probation and pretrial services offices with respect to location monitoring. We appreciate your offer to introduce supportive legislation. At this time, the Judicial Conference does not have legislative recommendations related to the location monitoring program. After we complete our policy review, we may seek assistance from Congress. Of note, we will need to work within available funding. Funding for salaries and operations in the probation and pretrial services system has been reduced 14 percent this fiscal year, and resources for location monitoring, mental health and substance abuse treatment have been cut 20 percent. We are bracing for even larger reductions next year, and the vacancy rate in probation and pretrial services offices now stands at 25 percent. Your continued support of our appropriation request is much appreciated.

The AO remains committed to public safety, and we appreciate your interest in our federal probation and pretrial services functions. If we may be of additional assistance,

please do not hesitate to call our Office of Legislative Affairs at 202-502-1700.

Sincerely,

THOMAS F. HOGAN,
Director.

GITMO UNIVERSITY ON THE CARIBBEAN

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, “English as a second language,” “Pashto to English,” “Arabic to English,” “art,” “life skills,” “computers,” “personal health and wellness,” “finance and business”—sounds like courses at a swanky New England university, but these are just a few classes offered at Gitmo University on the Caribbean.

That's not all.

These terrorists get training in resume writing and interviewing. Are they going someplace? And what do they put on that resume—“professional bomb maker”?

If they get bored with classes, they can meander over to the “detainee library” with its 17,000 books, video games and CDs.

More still.

Terrorists have access to the fancy, new taxpayer-funded \$750,000 soccer field—play volleyball, basketball, table tennis, and even foosball. Lastly, they get cultural religious training—ironic since the radicals kill in the name of religion.

Mr. Speaker, why does the government spend millions to train and entertain those who kill Americans?

However, this is just another day for the 166 terrorist trainers, financiers and Osama bin Laden bodyguards at Gitmo University on the Caribbean.

And that's just the way it is.

NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT

(Mr. VALADAO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, the national unemployment report was released for this past May.

While some Americans were able to find low-paying jobs, I remain extremely disappointed with this sluggish economic recovery. For example, parts of my district in the Central Valley are still suffering from 30 percent unemployment. This is simply unacceptable.

The economic downturn, caused by burdensome regulatory policies at the State and Federal levels, cannot continue. Our communities should be growing, our businesses should be expanding, and our families should be able to provide better lives for their children. This can be done by allowing safe oil and natural gas exploration and by providing a clean, reliable water supply for Central Valley farmers, farm workers and their communities.

My constituents have faced chronic unemployment for too long. It is time for Washington bureaucrats to get out of the way and to let America prosper.

JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY AND THE NSA

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I am very pleased today to say that Members have joined me in introducing H. Res. 268, which is observing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day, which is going to be this Wednesday, June 19.

I hope that all of those across America will understand the meaning of Juneteenth, which is to express a celebration for the freeing of the slaves, which did not come to the southwestern States, like Texas, until almost 2 years later. That was 1865 after 1863.

Mr. Speaker, I want to quickly change the topic and indicate that I believe it's important to get an understanding of the individual who has allegedly been providing the leaks from the NSA. I have been restrained as to call him anything until the laws determine who he is, but I do believe that we are now tipping the scales of fairness when more and more is coming out in a foreign country, and I do believe something has to be done.

I will be introducing legislation on the reduction of private-intel utilization, an explanation of FISA Court opinions and strengthening the FISA Court because I believe that it is extremely important in strengthening the public trust and in strengthening the rights of the American people. We have to do it, and we have to be able to find this gentleman quickly so that the intelligence that will protect Americans will be done.

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ENTANGLING ALLIANCES

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I realize that there are many in schools that are not taught as much history as they should now because they're teaching to this ridiculous test, but it is important we learn from history.

Right now in Syria, we have rebels that are backed by al Qaeda. And this administration, and even some in this building, want to rush to the aid of the al Qaeda-backed rebels, while there are others that say, well, maybe we'd be better off if Assad stayed in power. It's a lose-lose situation for the United States, and when that's the case, it's time to stay out.

Maybe early on, before al Qaeda got so powerful, it would have been time to do something; but when it is a national security risk, when we get involved in